



PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	:	Juha TRINEN et al.)	
)	Group Art Unit 3618
Appln. No.	:	10/607,972)	
)	Examiner James A. Shriver II
Docket No.	:	P23902)	(Anticipated)
)	
Customer No.	:	7055)	Confirmation No. 6955
)	
Filed	:	June 30, 2003)	
)	
Title	:	GRIP FOR A SPORTS POLE, AND A SPORTS POLE HAVING SUCH GRIP)	
)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR §1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his consideration during the examination of the instant application.

All documents cited in this information disclosure statement are brought to the Examiner's attention as being relevant for having been made of record in Applicants' parent application No. 09/744,998.

Information Disclosure Statement Filed in the Parent Application on May 22, 2001

On May 22, 2001, Applicants filed an information disclosure statement in the aforementioned parent application. Therein, Applicants cited the following documents as being

relevant for having been cited in a search report issued in connection with the international PCT application, of which the aforementioned parent application is a national stage:

International Patent Publication No. WO 92/04953 (DUFTER), published on April 2, 1992, was cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, and 21 of Applicants' aforementioned international application, and as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 3 and 6 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. Page 10, paragraph 4, and Fig. 10 of WO '953 were cited as being relevant.

International Patent Publication No. WO 90/14136 (SWIX SPORT), published on November 29, 1990, was cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, and 21 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. Claim 2 and Fig. 1 of WO '136 were cited as being relevant.

U.S. Patent No. 5,248,163 (DONDERO), issued on September 28, 1993, was cited as being relevant for being a family member of WO '136.

European Patent Application No. 0 266 329 (SKARD), published on May 4, 1988, was cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, and 21 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. Column 2, paragraphs 48-56, and Fig. 1 of EP '329 was cited as being relevant.

U.S. Patent No. 4,790,562 (SKARD), issued on December 13, 1988, was cited as being relevant for being a family member of EP '329.

European Patent Application No. 0 370 900 (GAMET SARL), published on May 30, 1990, was cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 7, 9, and 21 of Applicants' aforementioned international application. Figs. 1 and 14 of EP '900 were cited as being relevant.

The following second two documents are brought to the Examiner's attention as being relevant to the background of the specification of the instant and parent applications:

French Patent Publication No. 2 634 388 (SALOMON S.A.), published on January 26, 1990, is cited as being relevant as being cited in paragraph 0008 of the specification of the instant application.

U.S. Patent No. 5,092,629 (BAGNERES et al.), issued on March 3, 1992, is a family member of FR '388.

Information Disclosure Statement Filed in the Parent Application on October 29, 2002

On October 29, 2002, Applicants filed a second information disclosure statement in the aforementioned parent application. Therein, Applicants cited the following information:

Norwegian Patent No. 309846 (EXEL), granted on September 4, 2001, discloses a sports pole/glove combination which allows complete rotation of the hand, although no thumb support is provided.

French Patent Publication No. 2 634 388 (SALOMON S.A.), published on January 26, 1990, and U.S. Patent No. 5,092,629 (BAGNERES et al.), issued on March 3, 1992, and also cited in Applicants' aforementioned information disclosure statement filed on May 22, 2001 in the aforementioned parent application, also discloses the type of pole disclosed in NO '846.

Norwegian Patent No. 159639 (SKARD), granted on January 25, 1989, discloses a sports pole which has a type of support for the thumb, but more accurately, the support is for the palm of the hand, i.e., a "pick" or "sword" type of support.

European Patent Publication No. 0 266 329 (SKARD), published on May 4, 1988, and U.S. Patent No. 4,790,562 (SKARD), issued on December 13, 1988, are both based upon and claim the priority of the application upon which NO '639 is based.

Norwegian Patent No. 167004 (SWIX SPORT et al.), granted on September 25, 1991, discloses a sports pole of the type disclosed by NO '639, above. Therefore, NO '004 is pertinent for the same reasons as NO '639 mentioned above.

WO 90/14136 (SWIX SPORT), published on November 29, 1990, and U.S. Patent No. 5,248,163 (DONDERO), issued on September 28, 1993, are both based upon and claim the priority of the application upon which NO '004 is based. These two documents are cited above as having been included in Applicants' information disclosure statement filed in the parent application on May 22, 2001.

WO 92/04953 (DUFTER), published on April 2, 1992, and also cited in Applicants' aforementioned information disclosure statement filed on May 22, 2001, also discloses the type of pole disclosed in the aforementioned documents.

WO 02/062434 (EXEL), published subsequent to Applicants' invention on August 15, 2002, discloses a handgrip for a skiing, walking, or skating pole having a handstrap, which allows rotation of the support elements along with the hand with respect to the handgrip.

Four photographs on two sheets (originals were filed in the aforementioned parent application), show an EXEL grip that is more of a "sword" type of grip which prevents any rotation of the hand during use. The grip has a type of strap, one extremity of which appears to cooperate with the metacarpus of the thumb and which prevents rotation of the hand in relation to the pole due to the second extremity of the strap.

Documents Cited in Office Action of June 27, 2002 in the Parent Application

In an Office action dated June 27, 2002, the following documents were made of record:

- U.S. Patent No. 4,750,760 (GURLEY), issued on June 14, 1988;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,248,163 (DONDERO), issued on September 28, 1993;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,287,870 (RHODES), issued on February 22, 1994;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,316,340 (MALTSEV), issued on May 31, 1994;
- U.S. Patent No. 5,887,282 (LENHART), issued on March 30, 1999;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,139,060 (LENHART), issued on October 31, 2000;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,264,242 (LENHART), issued on July 24, 2001;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,305,051 (CHO), issued on October 23, 2001;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,325,418 (LENHART), issued on December 4, 2001;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,386,588 (YOUNG et al.), issued on May 14, 2002;
- U.S. Patent No. 6,390,109 (MANNINEN), issued on May 21, 2002.

Rejections in Office Action of January 28, 2003 in the Parent Application

As explained in Applicants' reply, filed on June 30, 2003, to the final Office action of January 28, 2003, amendments were made to place the parent application in condition for allowance, consistent with the Examiner's previous indication of allowable subject matter, although the instant continuation application was being filed concurrently with that reply for the purpose of pursuing the allowance of rejected claims.

Applicants submit that the claims contain allowable subject matter for reasons explained during the interview on June 26, 2003, following the issuance of the final Office action.

Applicants note that the aforementioned final Office action included a rejection under 35 USC §102(e) based upon CHO (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,051), and a rejection under 35 USC 103(a) based upon the combination of CHO and LENHART (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,282).

Also, for the Examiner's convenience in comparing the claims of the instant application with those of the aforementioned parent application, claims 1, 2 and 6-20 of the instant application correspond to claims 22-30, 42, 43, 47-50, 52, and 53, respectively.

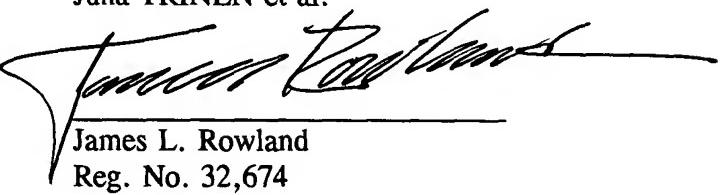
In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609, copies of the documents can be found in the aforementioned parent application and, therefore, are not attached. However, should the Examiner request copies of same, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative who will, upon such request, provide such copies.

In addition, each of the documents is listed on one of the attached PTO-1449 forms to permit the Examiner to indicate his consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 forms and returning copies of the initialled forms to Applicants.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Juha TRINEN et al.



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Sheet 1 of 2

Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P23902	Application No. 10/607,972		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicants Juha TRINEN et al.					
		Filing Date June 30, 2003		Group Art Unit 3618			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4 7 5 0 7 6 0	6-1988	GURLEY	16	DIG. 12	
		4 7 9 0 5 6 2	12-1988	SKARD	280	821	
		5 0 9 2 6 2 9	3-1992	BAGNERES et al.	280	821	
		5 2 4 8 1 6 3	9-1993	DONDERO	280	821	
		5 2 8 7 8 7 0	2-1994	RHODES	135	65	
		5 3 1 6 3 4 0	5-1994	MALTSEV	280	821	
		5 8 8 7 2 8 2	3-1999	LENHART	2	159	
		6 1 3 9 0 6 0	10-2000	LENHART	280	821	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
		0 2 6 6 3 2 9	5-1988	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	-----	-----	ENGLISH
		0 3 7 0 9 0 0	5-1990	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	-----	-----	ABSTRACT
		2 6 3 4 3 8 8	1-1990	FRANCE	-----	-----	X
WO 90	/	1 4 1 3 6	11-1990	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.	-----	-----	ENGLISH
WO 92	/	0 4 9 5 3	4-1992	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.	-----	-----	ABSTRACT
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>							



Sheet 2 of 2

Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office						Atty. Docket No. P23902	Application No. 10/607,972				
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
		6	2	6	4	2	4	2	7-2001	LENHART	280	821	
		6	3	0	5	0	5	1	10-2001	CHO	16	430	
		6	3	2	5	4	1	8	12-2001	LENHART	280	821	
		6	3	8	6	5	8	8	5-2002	YOUNG et al.	280	821	
		6	3	9	0	1	0	9	5-2002	MANNINEN	135	65	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS													
		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		1	5	9	6	3	9	1-1989	NORWAY	-----	-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		1	6	7	0	0	4	9-1991	NORWAY	-----	-----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		3	0	9	8	4	6	9-2001	NORWAY	-----	-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	
WO	02/0	0	6	2	4	3	4	8-2002	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.	-----	-----	ENGLISH	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)													
		Four photographs of EXEL hand grip.											
EXAMINER						DATE CONSIDERED							
<small>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>													